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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,991	09/16/2003	Leonard F. Bjeldanes	B03-074-1	4613

23379 7590 03/08/2007
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EXAMINER

BETTON, TIMOTHY E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/08/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/664,991

Applicant(s)

BJELDANES ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy E. Betton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-14 and 20-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' arguments, filed 2 January 2007, have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from the previous office action are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Status of the Claims

Claims 15-19 are pending for prosecution on the merits.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112 – 1st Paragraph

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contain subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants' use of the term 'determined' is unclear in regard to a proper encompassing assessment and understanding of the manner and process of

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using. The specification does not yield a proper written description of the term 'determined' in relation to the claimed invention. Instant claim 4 fails to adequately describe the term 'determined', only disclosing a manner of description of said term based upon disclosed disease states, i.e., prostate hyperplasia, acne, androgenetic alopecia and hirsutism. The specification fails to properly disclose what the determination is based upon independent of alleged disease states disclosed. Examples of proper determination would be descriptive standards of determination, protocols, documented cooperative agreements (amongst healthcare coordinators, physicians, pharmacists) etc.

The phrase "determined to be subject or predisposed to an androgen-dependent pathology" is unclear in its explanation. Prostate hyperplasia may be plausible in the broadest reasonable scope in regard to this claimed disclosure. However, conditions such as acne, hirsutism, and alopecia would not necessarily necessitate being predisposed or subject to an androgen-dependent pathology having need of said antiandrogenic agent.

Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for arresting cancerous prostatic cells *in vitro*, does not reasonably provide enablement for the treatment of androgen-dependent cancers in patients nor the specific treatment of prostate hyperplasia. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

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As stated in MPEP 2164.01(a), " There are many factors to be considered when determining whether there is sufficient evidence to support a determination that a disclosure does not satisfy the enablement requirement and whether any necessary experimentation is undue."

In re Wands , set forth the following eight factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 USC 112, 1ST paragraph:

1. The nature of the invention;
2. The state of the prior art;
3. The predictability or lack thereof in the art;
4. The amount of direction or guidance present;
5. The presence or absence of working examples;
6. The breadth of the claims;
7. The quantity of experimentation needed; and
8. The level of the skill in the art.

The nature of the invention

The invention is drawn to a method of "providing an antiandrogen to a host", using the compound found in claims 15-19. Instant claims 5 and 6 further narrow "cancer" by specifying "prostate cancer."

The state of the prior art and the predictability or lack thereof in the art

The state of the art, pharmacology, involves screening *in vitro* and *in vivo* in order to determine which compounds exhibit pharmacological activities. There is no absolute predictability even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art.

Because of the nature of unpredictability, it is highly unlikely that the contemporary knowledge in the art would allow one of ordinary skill in the art to accept that the instantly claimed compounds or pharmaceutical compositions thereof are capable of treating cancer broadly in any particular patient.

The amount of direction or guidance present and presence or absence of working examples

There is referenced direction or guidance in Applicants' specification for a method of providing an antiandrogen to a host. However, *Exemplary Empirical Protocols* (page 9 of specification) establish only a general structure of the claimed scope of the invention.

Pages 9-21 of Applicants' specification reference *in vitro* assays showing applicants' claimed compounds' ability to arrest prostate cancer cells. However, Applicants' specification fails to provide support for the use of applicants' claimed invention in the treatment of said condition in patients, as disclosed in claims 5 and 6.

The breadth of the claims, quantity of experimentation, and level of skill in the art

Those of skill in the art recognize that *in vitro* assays and/or cell-cultured based assays are generally useful to observe basic physiological and cellular phenomenon such as screening the effects of potential drugs. However, clinical correlations are generally lacking. The greatly increased complexity of the *in vivo* environment as compared to the very narrowly defined and controlled conditions

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of an *in vitro* assay does not permit a single extrapolation of *in vitro* assays to human diagnostic efficacy with any reasonable degree of predictability. *In vitro* assays cannot easily assess cell-cell interactions that may be important in a particular pathological state.

Furthermore it is well known in the art that cultured cells, over a period time, lose phenotypic characteristics associated with their normal counterpart cell type. Freshney (Culture of Animal Cells, A Manual of Basic Technique, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 1983, New York, p. 4; reference to USPN 7011951 and USPN 5518915) teach that it is recognized in the art that there are many differences between cultured cells and their counterparts *in vivo*. These differences stem from the dissociation of cells from a three-dimensional geometry and their propagation on a two-dimensional substrate. Specific cell interactions characteristic of histology of the tissue are lost. The culture environment lacks the input of the nervous and endocrine systems involved in homeostatic regulation *in vivo*. Without this control, cellular metabolism may be more constant *in vitro* but may not be truly representative of the tissue from which the cells were derived. This result has often led to tissue culture being regarded in a rather skeptical light (p. 4, see Major Differences In Vitro).

Further, Dermer (Bio/Technology, 1994, 12:320; reference to Bio/Technology Reports 10: pgs 783-789, 2003) teaches that, petri dish cancer is a poor representation of malignancy, with characteristics profoundly different from the human disease. Dermer teaches that when a normal or malignant body cell adapts to immortal life in culture, it takes an evolutionary-type step to enable

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the new line to thrive in its artificial environment. This step transforms a cell from one that is stable and differentiated to one that is not. Yet normal or malignant cells *in vivo* are not like that. The reference states that evidence of the contradictions between life on the bottom of a lab dish and in the body has been in the scientific literature for more than 30 years. It is well known in the art that cells in culture exhibit characteristics different from those *in vivo* and cannot duplicate the complex conditions of the *in vivo* environment involved in host-tumor and cell-cell interactions.

In view of the teachings above and the lack of guidance, workable examples and/ or exemplification in the specification, it would require undue experimentation by one of skill in the art to determine with any predictability, that the method would function as claimed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

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Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Firestone *et al.*, (USPN 6001868) in view of Safe (PG PUB: US 20020115708 A1).

The applied references have a common claimed invention and/or method steps with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified

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under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(I)(1) and § 706.02(I)(2).

The instant claims are drawn to methods of providing an antiandrogen to a host; the method comprising the steps of: **(a) contacting** the host with an effective amount of an antiandrogenic, optionally substituted 3,3'- (DIM) and **(b) detecting** a resultant antiandrogenic response in the host.

Firestone *et al.*, disclose an invention that provides methods and compositions related to novel bioactive derivatives of indole-3-carbinol (e.g., (DIM)). It further teaches a method by way a target cell is **contacted** with disclosed compound under conditions whereby the growth of the target cell inhibited. Furthermore, Firestone *et al.*, teach a method of **detecting** via **evaluating** the growth inhibitory activity, **contacting** a cell with an effective amount of the compound and measuring the CDK6 expression in the cell (Abstract, patented claim 2).

Firestone *et al.*, do not disclose the said antiandrogenic agent being used for androgen-dependent pathologies.

Instead, said reference teaches said practicing method(s) on estrogen-dependent pathologies with use of core derivatives of indole-3-carbinol (DIM).

However, Safe discloses the directed use of DIM and derivatives thereof for the specific contacting, detecting, and inhibiting via a gel mobility shift assay for **prostate cancer cells** (Brief description of Drawings – Table CWU – DRTL (1)) in a comparative study to estrogen-dependent pathologies. Safe further discloses the practicing methods of administering said antiandrogenic agent in

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published claims 16,34,51, and 69. The motivation of Safe obviated by Firestone *et al.*, therefore promotes the necessity to combine in light of claimed invention.

Firestone *et al.* teach methods and compositions relating to novel bioactive derivatives of indole-3-carbinol (I3C), which are related to (DIM) in instant application in regard to general structure and mechanism of action. Firestone further teaches the methods of inhibiting targeted cell growth by (a) contacting, (b) evaluating, and (c) measuring the CDK6 expression in the cell in correlation with the growth inhibitory activity of the compound.

Firestone *et al.* does not teach the identical methods and/or processes which are disclosed in instant application. Additionally, Firestone *et al.*, concentrates on a specific component of the infected cell (CDK6 protein levels), however said reference does contain similar process methods for assaying.

Safe teaches derivatives of the practicing DIM core structure that are also taught in the instant application. In said referenced publication on page 3, section [0039] under the heading: *Definitions*, said structure is disclosed. Derivatives of the core structure are disclosed in the instant application on page 3 of the specification under the heading: *Summary of Invention*. Safe discloses in published claims, the *in vitro* method (by use of assays which are disclosed empirical series of method steps used to detect a reaction) of treating cancer, the method comprising obtaining a mammal comprising cancer cells, and administering to the mammal a composition comprising an effective dose of a compound of the said formula. Published claims 16, 34, 51, and 69 further obviate instant application claims 17-19 using this related core structure in the

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use of treatment against the specific cancer-types, i.e., **prostate cancer** and pathologies thereof.

Safe teaches **detection** on page 5, Example 2, section [0058] in that a process is disclosed where inhibition was determined, i.e., where clear proliferation of cancer cell lines were significantly inhibited. Further, detection is implied in said reference where sensitive cells were noticeably inhibited at the lowest concentration.

Detection is defined as: **a)** the act of discovery and/or **b)** in **chromatography**, visualization of the separated material (Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 27th Edition). Chromatography is further defined as the separation of chemical substances and particles by differential movement through a two-phase system. The mixture of materials to be separated is percolated through a column or sheet of some suitable chosen absorbent; the substances least absorbed are least retarded and emerge the earliest; those more strongly absorbed emerge later. Chromatography is also synonymous with absorption.

Safe, in accordance, more specifically teaches **detection** on page 4, section [0047] of said referenced publication where resolution of the mixture using chiral chromatography column would result in the isolation of purified or pure enantiomers products. Furthermore, Safe teaches the use of thin-layer chromatography and liquid chromatography in section [0067] (page 6), both well-established detection methods and/or detection facilitators.

Safe, however, does not teach the specific method of providing said agents for exclusively an antiandrogenic response. Nonetheless, the motivation

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to combine both references would have been obvious and proper to one of ordinary skill due to overlap of core compounds, assaying methods, and goal of regimen.

Thus, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the methods disclosed in Firestone *et al.*, to inhibit via evaluating, contacting, and measuring. It is well known in the art that I3C and DIM (a predominant conversion product of I3C) is potent antiandrogenic agent, effective against androgenic – dependent and/or independent pathologies. It would have been obvious to combine that which is taught in both said references above. DIM and related compounds may be not only chemopreventive, but also act as antitumorigenic agents for bladder and other cancers through the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR) and possibly other mechanistic pathways as evidenced by Safe.

Claims 15-19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safe (USPN 5,948,808), Safe (PG PUB: US 20020115708 A1), and Firestone *et al.* as applied to claims 1-9 above, and further in view of Chang *et al.* (USPN 5,789,170).

Safe (USPN 5,948,808) teaches compounds and compositions of substituted I3C and DIM and core structures thereof as disclosed in instant specification.

Safe (USPN 5,948,808) does not teach the compounds and compositions as disclosed for use in prostatic hyperplasia but for estrogen-dependent cancers.

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Chang et al. teach an antiandrogenic agent useful as a tool in monitoring the androgenic/antiandrogenic effects of possible pharmaceuticals.

Chang et al. does not teach 13C or DIM as a practicing antiandrogenic agent.

However, one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art would at once have recognized via the obviousness of Chang et al., the motivation to combine together the methods and compositions, i.e., Safe (USPN 5,948,808; PG PUB: US 20020115708 A1) Firestone et al. Instant invention is directed toward a method of assaying with an antiandrogen by 1) contacting the host and 2) detecting a resultant antiandrogenic response. One of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time of invention would instantly recognize the reasonable expectation of success in combining Safe, Firestone et al., and Chang et al. together in obviousness over subject invention.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

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A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 15-19 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over patented claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6001868. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patently distinct from each other because one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art could readily conclude that the term "detecting" is interchangeable with the process of measuring and evaluating as disclosed in patented claims. Both the patented reference and the instant application teach the method of screening or assaying. Assaying contains a number of method steps that are a series of empirical detection processes, with functions that may vary but are interchangeable due to substantial and similar well-established protocols. Therefore, patented claims 1-3 teach an assaying process of **a)** contacting a cell with an effective amount of an I3C derivative, **b)** measuring expression in contacted cell, and **c)** evaluating said activity. The phrase "detecting a resultant antiandrogenic response in host" found in instant claim 1 directly after the contacting step could be reasonably interchangeable with the practicing terms: measuring expression and evaluation of such activity. Assays are implemented in order to detect a reaction. Detection is a form of measurable recognition of a signal and its specificity and rate of degree and occurrence.

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Firestone et al. teaches methods that encompass instant directed claim 1. Common elements of assaying, whether enumerated as in step form or disclosed within written explanation, is inconsequential if elements follow a common description, order of methods/process and expected response. Therefore, Firestone et al. do teach and /or suggest the subject claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy E. Betton whose telephone number is (571) 272-9922. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30a - 5:00p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin H. Marschel can be reached on (571) 272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service

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Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-

9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TEB

Ardin H. Marschel 3/4/07
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